

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on March 11, 2004. Claims 1-14 and 16-17 were examined. The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-13 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lowry (U.S. Pat. No. 4,864,497). The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lowry in view of Barequet ("A Data Front-End for Layered Manufacturing," Proceedings of 13th Annual Symposium on Computational Geometry, 1997, pp. 231-239). Finally, the Examiner allowed claims 14-17.

Claims 14, 16, and 17 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 1-13 have been cancelled by Applicant without prejudice. Claims 14 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments. As to a minor matter, the Examiner indicated that claims 14-17 are allowed, however, claim 15 was cancelled in the Response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2003.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-13 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lowry. Claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lowry in view of Barequet. Claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowed Claims

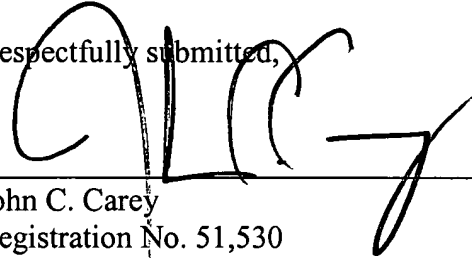
Claims 14 and 17 have been amended. The minor amendments to claims 14 and 17 do not effect the allowability of claims 14, 16, and 17.

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Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, Applicant believes that he has overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed April 1, 2004, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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